DARPA-BAA-15-12 Program
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
as of 1/28/2014

8Q: Do you have a required level of detection for the system's analytical methodology?

8A: Proposers should work to address the metrics stated in the BAA.

7Q: In the BAA, you say the purpose of Phase 3 is to "build and demonstrate the operability of a small-scale prototype reactor." Yet, the Month 30 Milestone requires demonstration of a processing rate of ≥55-gal drum/hr. This indicates you expect a full-sized system rather than a small-scale prototype. Could you please clarify your expectation?

7A: The expectation for prototype performance at Month 30 is demonstration of *processing rates equivalent* to ≥55-gal drum/hr. The metric can be achieved using more than one strategy, such as demonstrating one unit of a parallelizable multiple-unit system, or by demonstrating equivalent processing rates at smaller volumes/durations that scale to ≥55-gal drum/hr. The scale and potential future scale up should be articulated and considered carefully.

▲▲▲New Q/A▲▲▲

6Q: I have a question regarding one of the metrics. The BAA states (on p. 5) that the 40' shipping container must contain all the raw materials not available onsite to process 20 55-gallon drums of CWA, yet it also states that the system must be able to process >55 gal/hr for >48 hours. By my count, that leaves us shy of raw materials required to treat at least 28 55-gallon drums. This either means we can bring in said raw materials separately or that there is a discrepancy in the requirements that needs to be resolved. Can you clarify?

6A: One of the main problems with current approaches is the long logistics tail to transport all required equipment/materials to the site of CWA processing. ACDC is designed (in part) to address this issue by encouraging approaches that minimize the amount of raw materials required to augment indigenous resources. The spirit of the first metric you note is to ensure that raw materials not derived from indigenous sources have a small footprint.

5Q: In preparing our abstract, we had a question regarding section IV.B.1.a.vi – Cost and Schedule. The BAA lists a requirement to include labor and materials. Can you please clarify as to if you want a separately priced line item for labor and a separately priced line item for materials? If so, does this need to be provided by FY or would in total be sufficient?

5A: Yes, these should be separately priced line items. Per the BAA, the cost estimates should be provided by Government fiscal year.

4Q: Can you please clarify whether the proposal is trying to use soil or other native materials as part of the decontamination process or is the objective to neutralize already contaminated soil? If it is the former (part of decon), is DARPA insisting on the inclusion of soil in the process or are you open to other native materials or solutions that do not require these materials yet meet the neutralization requirements set forth?

4A: The objective of the effort is to use readily available native materials as part of the decontamination process for bulk chemicals. Any potential readily available on-site inputs may be proposed (e.g., soil, air, plant matter, etc.); use of water beyond concentrated solution for on-site augmentation is discouraged.

3Q: In the Proposers' day webinar it mentions a teaming website. Can you provide additional information, such as a URL or details about how I might find/develop teaming partnerships for the ACDC program?

3A: There is no separate teaming website for the ACDC program. Information about how groups may submit and receive information on teaming is provided in the BAA, Part II, Sec. VIII.B (pg. 38), as well as on the Proposers' Day registration website (https://www.signup4.net/public/ap.aspx?EID=AGNO11E&OID=148) under "Teaming/Technical Exchange."

2Q: Is abstract submittal a prerequisite for submitting a teaming profile?

2A: No, abstract submittal is not a prerequisite for submitting a teaming profile.

1Q: Can you explain to me the meaning of "Agnostic" in the attached announcement?

1A: Agnostic in this context refers to a system that can destroy any organic compound regardless of the molecular structure. Agnostic = general.